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Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Responsibility of States for internationally wrongful acts

Letter dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 3 August 2014, in connection with the recent provocative offensive actions by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia from their positions in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and from the territory of Armenia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex urgently circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 38 and 77, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

3 August 2014

During the last several days, having violated the ceasefire regime in various directions along the Armenia-Azerbaijan border and the line of contact, the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia, the Occupying Power, have made several incursions into the positions of the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The reconnaissance and subversive groups of the armed forces of Armenia have made several attempts to cross the line of contact. These provocative actions by the Armenian side caused significant escalation along the front line and resulted in numerous human losses. The official Yerevan, which ordered these provocative actions, bears full responsibility for aggravating the dangerous situation.

Armenia's unconstructiveness in the negotiations, its interest in maintaining the status quo, its evasion of the Madrid peace plan, its refusal to comply with the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, its policy of ruthless ethnic cleansing (the expulsion of over a million people from their native lands), and its latest provocative actions aimed at undermining the peace process — all these provide the strongest grounds to impose substantial sanctions against Armenia by the international community. The continued presence of Armenia's armed forces on the occupied territories of Azerbaijan remains the biggest threat to the peace process. Therefore, first and foremost, the armed forces of Armenia must withdraw from the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The earlier Armenia realizes this, the sooner peace, stability and predictability can be restored in the region.

The Ministry offers sincere condolences to the families of those sons of Azerbaijan who sacrificed their lives for the country's independence and territorial integrity. Let them rest in peace!